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**CITY COUNCIL APPROVES KEY AMENDMENTS
TO THE CHICAGO HUMAN RIGHTS ORDINANCE AND THE CHICAGO FAIR HOUSING
ORDINANCE**

*Amendments update ordinances to broaden retaliation protection,
lengthen statute of limitations on filing*

City Council today passed key amendments introduced by Mayor Rahm Emanuel to both the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance and the Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance.

“By taking these actions today, we continue to ensure that the City of Chicago will treat all residents fairly and equitably,” said Mayor Emanuel.

The first amendment expands protections for individuals who complain about unlawful discrimination and harassment. As currently written, both ordinances only prohibit retaliation against a person who first files a complaint with the Chicago Commission on Human Relations (CCHR) or who cooperates in the investigation of a complaint with the CCHR.

The amendment broadens this provision to prohibit retaliation for any good faith complaint about discrimination or harassment – this can include internal complaints made by employees to their employers. Similarly, individuals who file complaints with other agencies, such as the EEOC and Illinois Department of Human Rights, who are then retaliated against, are now eligible to file a retaliation complaint with the CCHR.

The second amendment expands the statute of limitations for filing a complaint from 180 days to 300, placing it on equal footing with Title VII of the Federal Civil Rights Act and the recently amended Illinois Human Rights Act.

“I am proud these measures are incorporated into our laws and look forward to working with residents and other community leaders to ensure the rights of every Chicagoan is protected and enforced,” Commissioner Noriega said. “As always, I encourage anyone who experiences discrimination of any kind to contact the Chicago Commission on Human Relations online, by phone, or in person.”

CCHR is charged with enforcing the Chicago Human Rights Ordinance and the Chicago Fair Housing Ordinance. CCHR investigates complaints to determine whether discrimination may have occurred, and uses its enforcement powers to punish those actions. For more information, please visit www.cityofchicago.org/humanrelations.

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